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**ORGANIZATION
FOR THE
ENLARGEMENT
AND EXTENSION BY
THE STATE OF THE
UNIVERSITY PLAN OF
HIGHER EDUCATION
IN TEXAS**

THE HOGG ORGANIZATION

BY

S. E. MEZES, PRESIDENT

OF

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

**OFFICE OF
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

**AUSTIN, TEXAS
FEBRUARY 10, 1912**

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NAME.

The by-laws provide that this undertaking shall be named the "Organization for the Enlargement and Extension by the State of the University Plan of Higher Education in Texas." This title has the advantage of making plain to the discerning reader the purpose of the Organization; it was selected for that reason. But no prophet is needed to foresee that the title of convenience and appreciation will be "The Hogg Organization."

The shorter title is made especially appropriate by the fact that the idea of this enterprise had its birth in a series of conversations between former Governor James S. Hogg and his son, Will C. Hogg, held during the last six months of the former's life. Always a fearless and convinced friend of education, during his later days Governor Hogg came to turn his thoughts more and more in this direction, and, as he did so, became increasingly convinced that thoroughgoing education from the primary grades up through the University was one of the most vital needs of the State. Why his interest during his last days came to concentrate on higher education can only be

surmised. No doubt the interest of his son in it was a potent factor. No doubt his knowledge that the people of Texas were fully alive to the need of strengthening the common schools in every possible way, while they appreciated in a lesser degree the equal need, in their own interest, of properly equipping the institutions of higher education, also afforded a strong reason to a man of Governor Hogg's big ideas and sturdy native sense of proportion. But, whatever the cause of the interest, it was genuine and persistent, and during many an intimate talk those last six months the plan was gone over by father and son. At the time there was no immediate prospect of carrying it out, and it was a dream and an aspiration, rather than a set proposal. But when men big in heart and brain set themselves to dreaming, results of importance are likely to appear, and the ensuing reality, whether exactly patterned after their dreams or not, is likely to be something noteworthy, that makes for the welfare of men. It may well be that in years to come this contribution of the elder Hogg to the well-being of Texas will be ranked alongside of those achievements of his as the State's Chief Executive, which have been assigned a high place in the annals of statesmanlike work in the Commonwealths of this nation. It was his purpose, had he lived, to have conducted in person the campaign throughout Texas to free our higher educational institutions from all disturbing political entanglements and to keep them free by putting them on an independent financial basis.

PLAN.

The plan outlined in these conversations was kept in mind by the younger Hogg for a number of years, awaiting the time when

he could set to work with his characteristic vigor, and bring it into being as a vital factor in the educational development of Texas. During this interval he thought over the plan from time to time and perfected it in a number of its undetermined details. It was in June, 1911, that he became assured of his ability to do his part, and of the ripeness of the educational situation in Texas for launching his proposal. He then presented it to the Alumni Association of the University at its annual meeting, and asked that this Association adopt and approve it, pledging himself to secure the handsome endowment necessary to its success. His fellow alumni willingly gave him their endorsement; and, after consulting with the three men picked out by the Association to co-operate with him in launching the enterprise, Mr. Hogg set about the large task of securing the promised financial support.

The assurance given the Alumni Association was that subscriptions aggregating not less than \$25,000 a year for five years would be secured by the first of November, 1911. Although he was delayed by unexpected but imperative business calls, and was hampered by personal illness for a portion of the time, by the 20th of October Mr. Hogg had secured the amount promised, and by the first of November had secured subscriptions aggregating \$29,800 for each of the five years contemplated, or a total of \$149,000. No subscription larger than \$250 a year was accepted, and no person or firm was put down for more than one subscription. No subscription smaller than \$25 a year was accepted. Four hundred and forty-three individual subscriptions were received, and Mr. Hogg was, and is, convinced that as many more could easily be secured, in an

equal length of time, by visits to many places in the State which he had no time to make. A large number of his subscriptions came from men who never attended a college or university, but had become convinced by their observation and reflection that higher education is one of the prime needs of the State and its people.

CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS, COMMITTEES.

After the promised subscriptions were secured, the Chairman of the Board of Regents, the President of the Alumni Association, and the President of the University, to whom this task was entrusted, drew up a constitution and by-laws and proceeded to complete the organization for the administration of the fund, after having presented the plan in detail to the Board of Regents of the University, and having received its approval at a meeting held October 17, 1911. Two committees with similar, but slightly different functions, known as the Standing and the Advisory Committee, with the advice and assistance of a Corresponding Committee, constitute the Board of Control of the Hogg Organization. The Standing Committee consists of Messrs. Clarence Ousley, Fort Worth; S. E. Mezes, Austin; E. B. Parker, Houston; R. L. Batts, Austin; W. H. Burges, El Paso; John W. Hopkins, Galveston; F. C. Proctor, Beaumont; George A. Robertson, Dallas, and M. Sansom, Fort Worth; the Advisory Committee of Messrs. S. P. Brooks, Waco; Will C. Hogg, Houston; Frank Kell, Wichita Falls; C. Lombardi, Dallas; E. O. Lovett, Houston; Charles Schreiner, Kerrville; Ed. C. Lasater, Falfurrias, and F. M. Bralley, Austin. The members of the Correspondence Committee are to be non-resident former Texans of National reputation; their names will be

published later. Mr. S. E. Mezes is Chairman, Mr. R. L. Batts, Vice-Chairman, and Mr. Arthur Lefevre, Secretary of the Board of Control. A Finance Committee consisting of Messrs. Parker, Hogg and Mezes is empowered to act for the Board in cases of emergency, when it is not in session.

PROGRAM OF WORK.

So much for the steps leading to the establishment of this important organization; now for a brief description of the work it proposes to do. For the present two lines of activity have been mapped out: first, an investigation of higher educational institutions, and, second, an educational campaign, acquainting the people of the State with the present status of such institutions in Texas and with the enlargement and extension of their service that would be beneficial to the State.

The work of investigation will be in the hands of Mr. Lefevre, as Research Secretary, except for one of its special but important departments, dealing with the constitutional and legal status of the higher educational institutions of Texas, which will be studied by a committee of lawyers on the Board of Control, with Mr. Batts, of Austin, as Chairman. Both the general and the legal investigations will undertake to secure facts, to digest them, and to present proposals to the Board of Control for its consideration, modification, if necessary, and adoption. As a result of these investigations, the Organization expects to recommend to the people of Texas a plan outlining in some detail the activities that should be undertaken by higher educational institutions in Texas, in the service of the people of the State, and the constitutional and legal changes necessary for the carrying out of these plans.

The purpose of the educational campaign to be carried on by the Organization is, in its own words, "to distribute, as widely as possible throughout Texas, information on the following points: (a) The present plant, activities, and amounts and methods of support, of the University of Texas, the Agricultural and Mechanical College, the College of Industrial Arts, and the State Normal Schools. (b) The needed improvements of, and additions to, the plants and activities of these institutions, and the increased income and support necessary to make those improvements and additions, based upon a study of similar institutions elsewhere. (c) The value to the people of Texas of the present services of these institutions, and the increased benefit to them of the services that could be rendered with improved and additional facilities."

In distributing this information, the following means and methods, among others, with such modifications as may prove expedient, will be employed: "(a) Bulletins and special articles. (b) Charts to be posted in courthouses, public libraries, chambers of commerce, and other suitable public places. (c) Special articles and other matter in the leading daily papers, and appropriate matter in the country papers. (d) Attendance on and addresses at, all important teachers' and other public meetings and fairs in the State. (e) Special mailing cards to be sent to a list of several thousand selected persons. (f) Suitable exhibits for the State and principal county fairs, accompanied wherever sent by some person competent to explain them."

ALL HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

While this plan for the enlargement and extension of higher education in Texas was

launched by the University Alumni Association, neither its promoters nor the committees in charge of the fund are willing that the University alone should profit by the activities to be undertaken. All realize that all parts of the educational system of the State are of vital importance to its welfare, and that any selfish or exclusive concern for any one institution or educational subdivision would be improper and unworthy of the support of the people. The Organization, therefore, proposes, as its plan of campaign outlined above makes plain, to give due attention to all the higher educational institutions, and to conduct its campaign in complete harmony with the interests and development of the State system of common schools. In order to insure the carrying out of this broad programme, the control of the educational campaign is put in the hands of a committee, consisting of two members of the Organization, and of representatives of the University of Texas, the Agricultural and Mechanical College, the College of Industrial Arts, the State Normal Schools, and The Conference for Education in Texas; and the executive management of the campaign is entrusted to the Secretary of this committee, Mr. F. M. Bralley, who as State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and, in that capacity, the people's highest elective educational officer, is in a position to carry it on in harmony with the State's educational policies.



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